



Report of M.O.H.

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22 SEP 1943
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BOROUGH OF MORECAMBE AND HEYSHAM.

I N T E R I M

R E P O R T

- of -

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending

31st DECEMBER, 1942.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Area (not including foreshore) in acres	3,665
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books (end of 1942)	10,682
Rateable Value	£291,821
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,182

The social conditions are those of a holiday resort and are well described in the special brochure "The Morecambe and Heysham Holiday Pictorial."

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
<u>Live Births</u> - Legitimate	461	231	230
Illegitimate	36	15	21
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Total	497	246	251
<u>Stillbirths</u>	17	7	10

Of the stillbirths, 2 females were illegitimate.

<u>Deaths</u>	565	254	311
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Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	1
Other maternal causes	<hr/> 1
Total	2

Deaths of infants under one year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	9	6
Legitimate	9	6
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths from Cancer

Cancer of buccal cavity; oesophagus;		
uterus	4	7
" of stomach and duodenum	5	8
" of breast	-	12
" of all other sites	22	30
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Total	31	57

Deaths from Infective Diseases

Cerebro-spinal fever	-	2
Whooping cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	12	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	3
Syphilitic diseases	2	1
Influenza	4	1
Measles	-	-

Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	-	-
<u>Deaths from Road Traffic Accidents.</u>	3	1

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

County Laboratory, Preston.
Pathological Dept., Preston Royal Infirmary.
Lancaster & District Joint Isolation Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities.

1. Corporation ambulance for general use.
2. ambulances owned by the St. John Ambulance Association.
1. fever ambulance provided by the Lancaster & District Joint Hospital Board.

Nursing in the Home.

District Nursing Association (3. Queens Nurses)

Treatment Centres & Clinics.

Eye)	
Dental)	School Clinic, Euston Road
Minor ailments)	" " Heysham, Monday afternoons.

The following are under the authority of the County Council:-

Child Welfare	Parliament Street School
Ante-natal	School Clinic, Euston Road
Orthopaedic	Thurnham House, Lancaster.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Middle Street, Lancaster.
Venereal Diseases	Preston Royal Infirmary

Hospitals.

General and maternity cases	Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe and Heysham.
Infectious cases	Lancaster & District Joint Isolation Hospital, Lancaster.
Smallpox cases	Smallpox Hospital, Littlefell, Lancaster.

Nursing Homes - Registered

Medical, surgery and maternity

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity. 32 chemical and bacteriological analyses were carried out during the year with satisfactory results. The degree of permanent hardness is 5 (Clarks method). There is no lead solvent action.

The steps taken against war risks have been the installation of three automatic and one manual chlorinators at the Filter Houses. One manual chlorinator is still in operation at Damas Ghyll reservoir.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following information has been supplied by the courtesy of Mr. W. Kilvington of the Sewerage Department:-

The summer period has again been utilised in cleaning and regrading most of the main dykes within the borough, though the prevailing labour conditions have restricted these activities to a bare minimum.

The three contracts of the new scheme have continued to good advantage under very trying conditions. The new 60" dia. steel outfall in tunnel is complete throughout the whole length of Albert Road, and the 60" dia. steel tubes are laid for the greater portion of Ellesmere Road. These works are now closed until the cessation of hostilities, after which an immediate resumption should be possible.

The scheduling of the Main New Pumping Station contract at Schola Green Lane under the "Essential Works Order" has considerably stimulated progress, by virtue of the facilities in acquiring and holding the requisite labour. The most treacherous sub-soil conditions have been encountered at extreme depths, causing anxiety and delay; these conditions, however, have been overcome and virtually the whole of the main No.1 Pump House Chamber is now complete. Certain additional measures are yet to be undertaken which will help to stabilise and make the structures safe, after which it is expected these works will also close for the duration of the war.

The year saw the completion of the construction of the whole of the new main watercourse to the Lune and even at this early stage, the benefits to all concerned cannot pass unnoticed. Benefits to agricultural development have been the most noticeable, and the consequent appreciation of the farming community has resulted in a more efficient handling of the existing subsidiary dykes, in which the County War Agricultural Executive Committee also have recently taken a very helpful interest.

Rivers and Streams.

There have been no developments during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of houses on water carriage system	10,679
Number of fresh water closets	12,000
Number of waste water closets	36
Number of closets attached to middens	5

Public Cleansing.

This work has been satisfactorily carried out on the system of previous years.

Salvage - Statistics for the Year.

<u>Material.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>			<u>Value.</u>		
	Tons	Cwts	Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper	562	14	28	3,294.	4.	10.
"Black" Scrap	31	11	-	64.	7.	8.
Baled Scrap	198	5	28	375.	11.	10.
Non-ferrous metals	3	8	84	91.	7.	2.
Textiles (including string)	32	18	84	591.	5.	1.
Bottles and Jars (1,478 doz.)	11	7	56	53.	14.	3.
Rubber	10	14	-	34.	13.	7.
Miscellaneous	1	10	28	3.	10.	9.
Bones	24	9	56	92.	10.	9.
Fertiliser	51	10	42	687.	7.	6.
	928	9	64	£5,288.	13.	5.

Material received from outside districts during the year:-

Paper	11	6	28
Tins, etc.	21	18	28

Amount of salvage sold by other departments:-

2	19	2	46.	10.	0.
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Value of steam raised from refuse 305. 0. 0.

The recovery of all usable salvage, and its preparation for further service, constitute work of the highest importance at the present time, and this work is well done in Morecambe and Heysham.

In correction of wholly uninformed statements that are occasionally made I would state emphatically that the amount of recovered salvage, and the work done in preparing it, in Morecambe and Heysham take a high place in the records of the country generally and have done so since the outbreak of war.

It is a mistake to judge the value of the work done in this matter by the success of spectacular "drives" and "salvage weeks". Such devices are occasionally of some value, but steady continual work throughout the year is of much more value. It is notable that those areas which return the highest figures in a "salvage drive" are often the areas in which returns at other times are negligible. A high response to a "salvage drive" is really a proof of work undone when it should have been done, i.e. week by week throughout the year.

It would be better if those authorities responsible for initiating special salvage drives would leave alone the areas where the work is being adequately done and concentrate their attention on those where it is not.

Swimming Baths.

Number of persons using the baths during the season 1942 was 76,993, of whom approximately 60% were juniors.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

20 premises were dealt with during the year by means of fumigation with sulphur and spraying with proprietary insecticides.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of and water supply to the schools are satisfactory.

Offensive Trades.

Number of premises registered - 4, namely, 2 tripe dressers, 1. gut scraper and 1. fat melter.

Factories Act, 1927.

Little action possible during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

None on the register.

Houses let in lodgings.

None on the register.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

13 inspections were made during the year.

Underground sleeping rooms.

No action required.

Overcrowding.

Population movements as a result of war provide difficulties that must be accepted for the time being.

Clearance and improvement areas.

No action taken.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The usual work was satisfactorily performed. There were 533 visits to slaughterhouses and 9,273 animals were inspected.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Arrangements have been made in concert with the City of Lancaster for dealing with an outbreak of typhus should such an event occur.

The following tables show the notifications of infectious diseases for the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	Under 1	AGE PERIOD IN YEARS										65 and over	Total cases	Cases removed to hospital	Deaths in hospital	Total deaths
		1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-					
Scarlet Fever		1	1	1	4	30	15	6	12	2	1		73	56		
Diphtheria					1	4	3	4	3				15	15		
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)										1			1	1		
Measles (excluding German measles).	10	22	24	36	51	188	8	10	12	1			362	7		
Whooping Cough	5	2	8	5	6	15	2						43	1		
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)				1	2	1		4	14	1	2	2	27			8
Puerperal Pyrexia									4				4	1		
Cerebro-spinal Fever				1		1	1	2	3	1			9	9	1	1
Dysentery			1		1	1	1						4			
Erysipelas									1	1	4	1	7	3		1
TOTALS	15	25	34	44	65	240	30	26	49	7	7	3	545	97	1	10

In comparison with the figures for 1941, there was an increase in measles from 171 cases to 362: in 1939 the figure was 497. There was some increase in scarlet fever, but a decline in the figures for whooping cough and pneumonia. Notifications of cerebro-spinal fever fell from 41 in 1941 to 9, and enteric fever from 9 to 1.

The notifications of diphtheria (15) were the lowest in 10 years, and there were no deaths.

The notifications of, and the deaths from, Respiratory Tuberculosis in the 4 years 1939-40-41-42 were as follows:-

	1939		1940		1941		1942	
	New Noti- fications	Deaths	New Noti- fications	Deaths	New Noti- fications	Deaths	New Noti- fications	Deaths
M.	7	9	17	6	27	13	20	12
F.	16	5	15	4	19	3	7	3
Total	23	14	32	10	46	16	27	15

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Children are immunised at special clinics, attendance being by appointment.

The immunising agent used is A.P.T.

During the year 230 pre-school children and 273 school children were immunised and the position at the end of 1942 was that of pre-school children 77.8% were immunised and of school children 89.6%.

TUBERCULOSIS.

<u>AGE PERIODS</u>		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
<u>YEARS.</u>									
0 - 1									
1 - 5					2				1
5 - 10				1					
10 - 15									
15 - 20					1				
20 - 25		2	2	1	1		1		
25 - 35		8	2		1	1			1
35 - 45		5	1	2		3			
45 - 55		2			1	4	1		
55 - 65		2	2		2	3	1		1
65 and upwards		1		1		1			
TOTALS		20	7	5	8	12	3		3
		27			13	15		3	

PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

TABLE A.

I. Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1942.

No. inspected by Medical Officer	No. inspected by Sanitary Inspector	No. reported to be defective	No. of Vessels on which defects were re- medied	No. of Vessels reported as having or having had during voyage infectious disease on board
	Nil			

TABLE B.

Omitted on Ministry of Health instructions.

III. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

Water is obtained from the town supply for the port and for shipping.

No water vessels are employed; vessels taking in water from standpipes alongside.

IV. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933:

- (1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health. This is usually received by the Customs Officer and handed later to the Sanitary Authority.
- (2) Boarding vessels on arrival. By Customs Officer and by Officer of Sanitary Authority.
- (3) Notification to the authority of vessels requiring special attention. Customs Officer notifies Medical Officer of Health by telephone.
- (4) Mooring stations designated under Act 10.
 - (a) Inner mooring. For cases of smallpox and typhus. Easterly end of north side.
 - (b) Outer mooring. For cases of cholera, yellow fever and plague. At Lune Deeps.
- (5) Particulars of any standing exemptions from provisions of Article 14.
All ordinary notifiable infectious diseases other than those specified under (4).
- (6) Experience of working of Article 16. No experience.
- (7) Arrangements for:-
 - (a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination. No special premises have been provided. There is no foreign passenger traffic. Members of the crew would be examined on board.
 - (b) Premises for temporary accommodation of persons. No special premises.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships. A steam disinfecter is provided for bedding and clothing. Appliances and materials are available for the disinfecting of ships and this would be carried out by the Health Department staff.

(d) Hospital Accommodation.

A hospital provided by a Joint Board on which this Sanitary Authority is represented, is now available for all cases except smallpox.

For smallpox cases the Sanitary Authority has an agreement with the Lancaster Corporation for the reception of seaborne cases in their hospital. This agreement will continue until the Joint Board make suitable provision.

(e) Ambulance transport.

A special motor ambulance is available with attendants.

(f) Supervision of contacts. Contacts requiring to be kept under surveillance would be kept on board or accommodated at hospital.

(8 & 9) Arrangements for bacteriological or pathological examinations of rats and other materials. Submitted to bacteriologists ordinarily employed by the Public Health Authority. Usually the Public Health Laboratories, Manchester University.

(10) Venereal Diseases. No special arrangements for sailors. Facilities arranged by the County Council are available.

(11) Arrangements for interment of dead. In cemeteries provided by the Sanitary Authorities.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Disease landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Disease occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival of vessel.

Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

A survey of the whole of the port was made by the Corporation's ratcatcher and the railway company's ratcatcher under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

This confirmed previous reports that the rat population was small.

The whole place, however, was extensively treated with poison baits.

VI. FOOD INSPECTION.

Periodical visits are made for the purpose of the Imported Food Regulations.

Visits are also made for the purpose of examining carcasses of animals slaughtered on board or after detention on landing.

MILK SAMPLES ANALYSED.

7 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

31 samples were taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, 3 of which were unsatisfactory.